Summertime

**3-2-1 Sept 12, 2011**

Three things I accomplished over the summer are starting my auto-biography, mapping my curriculum on the Rubicon curriculum mapping online software program, and my annual dose of wilderness experience.

I started writing my autobiography first planning out how I was going to write the paper, jotting down many ideas and stories I could remember. I then tried organizing them chronologically, and as I began writing more ideas began brewing inside my mind. The more I wrote the more I understood what a massive undertaking this paper would be. Thus far with 17 pages the experience was emotionally draining at times and overall very therapeutic to stroll down memory lane. Many of my friends became interested in the project and at first I was excited to send them what I wrote, but the paper quickly became so personal to the point where I was hesitant. I have yet to send anything out as many of my friends shared many of the experiences I write about, but I feel after a few drafts I will be able to open up to them. The journey continues and I hope to finish within the next month as other work is piling up.

The second accomplishment was starting to curriculum map online as required by my school. I attended a 3 day workshop during the summer where I got together with other music faculty to write a general curriculum map for the entire area (now network). I got some good ideas and began writing my own maps as will be required this school year for the fine arts department, the core subject teachers already had to be finished last year. I found the process interesting but found myself constantly referring to other subjects in justification for what I was doing as that is how the program is layed out. Music always had to be connected to reading, math, language arts, or social science, music in itself seemed to be irrelevant if it didn’t somehow connect to the core subjects…disappointing.

The third accomplishment was traveling to the Northwood’s of Wisconsin to camp and fish. I feel experiencing nature is important in life reflection and feeling a connection to the world around me. Every summer I take multiple trips with friends to relax, converse with friends over a camp fire, and get back to the roots of civilization.

A few things that are causing me to lose sleep are finishing my auto biography and late or missing work. I want to make my auto biography meaningful and thorough and thus that will take an extraordinary amount of time just to get the basic writing in place, not to mention many drafts to polish the final work. I have a lot of missing or late work, readings, updates on the wiki, biography of a foundations book author, Danielson review, 9 core objectives, etc. that I really need to hammer out in the next few weeks. The first few weeks of school have been busy but I have things under wraps now, but my weekends have been shot with gigs around Chicago more than usual, and two late summer weddings of some of my closest friends that take up entire weekends in travel.

My summer went well performing gigs here and there with my jazz quintet, going to rehearsals in Chicago, a few music festivals and music shows, and traveling back to Wisconsin to see family and friends. I did a lot of camping and fishing which was relaxing and fun. I got to see friends that live far away or are in the military that I do not get to see very often which was great. I got a lot of sleep as I did not work any kind of regular job. Personally I reflected a lot on the past year and got to catch up with friends who are very important to me. Professionally besides the Rubicon workshop and attending meetings for the family and community involvement committee at my school that I co chair, I didn’t do much else. I kept up in education/political news and started reading the Marzano book which I liked more than I thought I would. Overall I felt the summer was average, if I would have been more organized on what I should be doing when, I could of got a lot more accomplished. On the other hand it’s nice not to have commitments and be free to do as I wish for the time I had off.